

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2010, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application, where claim 6 had been withdrawn. Claim 1 is independent.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-7 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, namely deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Such amendments to claims 1-7 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 1 for a certain informality. In response, claim 1 has been amended to remove the noted informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for certain informalities in claims 1, 3 and 5. In response, claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended for better conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection of claims 1-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0137521 (Zehner) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,531,997 (Gates). Further, claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Zehner in view of Gates and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0196207 (Machida). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that claims 1-7, as amended, are patentable over Zehner, Gates and Machida for at least the following reasons.

Zehner is directed to a bistable electro-optic display capable of displaying at least three gray levels. Zehner discloses a method to reduce a "remnant voltage toward zero" for DC balancing. (Zehner, paragraph [0206]; emphasis added) Further, as specifically recited paragraph [0196], "the algebraic sum of the currents passed through a specific pixel should be zero or as close to zero as possible." (Emphasis added)

Gates is directed to addressing schemes for controlling bistable electronically addressable displays that include the use of addressing signals with additional signals having opposite polarity and equal integrated signal strength, and addressing schemes that minimize the number of state changes that a display element undergoes. (See Abstract)

It is respectfully submitted that Zehner, Gates, and combination thereof, do not disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

supply one or more inter-picture potential differences between at least two consecutive picture potential differences to selected ones of said picture elements, said one or more inter-picture potential differences having an inter-picture value and an associated inter-picture duration, a product of said inter-picture value and inter-picture duration representing


an inter-picture energy which is insufficient to change the positions of the particles to cause an optical state change, wherein the one or more inter-picture potential differences is **immediately after** a first picture potential difference of the two consecutive picture potential differences.

Having an inter-picture potential difference which is immediately after a first picture potential difference is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Zehner and Gates, alone or in combination. Rather, the figures of Gates, such as FIGs 2G and 3C, show a gap between successive pulses 60, 65 or 16, 18. Machida is cited to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Zehner and Gates. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1-7 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 are also allowable at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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